

REMARKS

I. Information Disclosure Statement and Drawings

The Examiner indicated that the earlier submitted information disclosure statement was lacking certain English translations, abstracts, a search report and/or a listing of the relevance of certain references. Applicant appreciates the careful attention given to this matter by the Examiner in making these observations. Applicant is in the process of obtaining the necessary information and will take appropriate action towards submission of these materials once they are received.

Applicant further appreciates that the earlier submitted drawings were considered acceptable.

II. The 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection of Claims 4 and 5

The Examiner has rejected Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. According to the Examiner, the term "liquid crystalline polymers" in Claim 4 is deemed to be unclear thereby rendering the claim vague and indefinite. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration on this point. Applicant believes that this term is well-known to those skilled in the art and has well understood and accepted meaning in polymer science, much as terms like "polyamide" or "polyester" are known and understood. The literature is replete with citations and passages describing liquid crystalline polymers. One such description is offered by C.E. Carraher, Jr. in the textbook *Seymour/Carraher's Polymer Chemistry*, Fifth Edition, Revised and Expanded; Marcel Dekker: New York, 2000, "[l]iquid crystals are materials that undergo physical reorganization whereby at least one of the rearranged structures involve molecular alignment along a preferred direction causing the material to exhibit nonisotropic behavior" (p. 273). Liquid crystalline materials are "a third phase that exists between the solid and isotropic states" (p. 273). To sample another source, liquid crystalline polymers are simply "polymers that exhibit liquid crystal characteristics in either solution...or in the melt."

(G. Odian *Principles of Polymerization*, Third Edition; John Wiley & Sons: New York, 1991, p. 164.) A number of polymers are well known in the art as "liquid crystalline polymers" and examples are given in the cited references. Pertinent pages of the above references are included together with this response for the Examiner's convenience.

The Examiner has also rejected Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite, as it was deemed to be unclear what the term "therethrough" was referring to. The claim has been amended to make it clear that the apertures are formed through the head and/or neck portions. Support for this change is found in the specification at page 6, lines 10-15.

Applicant has also independently entered corrections in several instances in the specification, so that the term "stem portion 9" reads as "neck portion 9". The term "neck portion 9" is the preferred descriptor, and appears elsewhere in the specification at page 6 line 33, page 7, line 29, and in Claim 2. With these corrections one term is consistently used to describe the portion 9.

III. The 35 USC 102(b) rejection of Claims 1-7 as anticipated by Carper et al (EP 0322999)

Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carper et al. (EP 0322999). Carper describes a process "for mechanically binding a rubber part to a reinforcing part." The process requires that "the rubber part and the reinforcing part [be formed] one with an upstanding post and the other with an opening, said post on one said part being complementary to said opening on the other part." This is followed by "assembling said rubber part and said reinforcing part with said post extending through the opening in said reinforcing part; and...reforming said post so as to provide a mechanical bond between said rubber part and said reinforcing part" (col. 5, lines 13-24).

Applicant has submitted amendments to Claim 1 which serve to clarify the nature of the instant invention. Accordingly, to promote better readability the plastic

surface was better defined and reference to "metal and plastic" surfaces was added where appropriate. Moreover the fastening means was more elaborately described as attached to and/or formed from the metal surface, over, around, and/or within which said plastic member is molded. The latter description is plainly suggested in the drawings, especially the several variations posed in Figure 2 therein, showing the different possible relationships of metal and plastic to each other.

Carper et al differ significantly from the integral structure of the present invention (as reflected in the claims as amended). The instant fastening means is distinct from Carper which require the use of posts in the rubber that extend through openings in the metal layer and require reforming.

Furthermore, Carper does not disclose the use of polyamides, polyesters, or liquid crystalline polymers as claimed in claim 4 of the present application, nor does Carper disclose a front end module made from the integral structure of the present invention as claimed in claim 7 of the present invention.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the claims as amended are in condition suitable for allowance and that the case may pass to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



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